

## **MEDIA ALERT: For Immediate Release**

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## Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available to Businesses Impacted by Wildfires

BOISE, Idaho—September 20, 2012—The State of Idaho is seeking assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for businesses affected by the 2012 wildfires in Boise, Elmore, Idaho, Lemhi, Custer, Twin Falls and Cassia counties.

Businesses can report revenue loss, job loss and physical damage to business property on the Economic Injury Worksheets available through the Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and County Emergency Management Offices in the affected counties. To be eligible for assistance the economic injury must have occurred during the declared incident period July 20, 2012 through the anticipated end of the fire season of December 1, 2012. Economic Injury Worksheets are posted to the <a href="Commerce website">Commerce website</a> under the "Communities" tab. Forms can be downloaded and sent by fax (208) 334-2631, by email <a href="jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov">jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov</a> or mailed directly to:

Jerry Miller Idaho Department of Commerce P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0093

Businesses can also contact Jerry Miller of the Idaho Department of Commerce - (208) 334-2470 - <a href="mailto:jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov">jerry.miller@commerce.idaho.gov</a>, or Mary Marsh of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland - (208) 422-5723 - <a href="mailto:mmarsh@bhs.idaho.gov">mmarsh@bhs.idaho.gov</a> for assistance.

The information contained in these reports will be crucial in determining who qualifies for assistance and the type of assistance that will be available.

Interested businesses can learn more about the assistance program by calling an SBA representative directly toll-free at (800) 659-2955 or through <u>SBA's website</u>. Hearing impaired individuals may call toll-free at (800) 877-8339. Businesses are asked to complete and submit the worksheets as soon as possible so assistance can be targeted to areas with the greatest needs.